



Beauty and the *Beast*

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Content

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Beauty and the *Beast*



This story was first written nearly two hundred years ago by a lady of the court of King Louis the Fourteenth of France, Gabrielle de Villeneuve. "Beauty and the Beast" is, without doubt, one of the most famous of all fairy-stories.



1. Once upon a time, in a far-off country, there lived a merchant who was very rich. As he had six sons and six daughters who were used to having all they wished, he had not a penny too much.

2. The merchant's wife had died soon after their youngest child, a daughter, was born. This baby became her father's favourite. She was so pretty and loving that everybody called her Beauty.



3. As the children grew older, all of them, except Beauty, spent their time enjoying themselves with music and dancing, and merry parties and outings, with no thought to the future.

4. Only Beauty lived a different life. She visited every little cottage where there was trouble or sickness while her sisters would ride past in a sleigh, laughing at her.



5. The merchant was now an old man and Beauty was always by his side, caring for him. On the other hand, her sisters were vain and disagreeable and although several rich young men asked to marry them, all their offers were refused.



6. The charming and gentle Beauty also received many offers of marriage but always she would take her father's hand and say, "I am too young to marry and besides I wish to be my father's companion and stay by his side for ever."



7. Suddenly an end came to the happy life of the merchant and his sons and daughters. One night their splendid house caught fire. In those far-off times there were no fire brigades and little could be done to check the flames. Soon the entire house was ablaze.

8. Beauty and the sons carried out of the house everything they could but the elder daughters did nothing but weep and wail and complain. "Try not to be too upset, dear father," said Beauty. "We will build another house." But worse misfortunes were about to fall.

Next week there is another unhappy shock for Beauty and the family.

Beauty and the Beast



1. Once upon a time there was a rich merchant who had six sons and six daughters. His favourite was his youngest daughter, who was called Beauty because of her loveliness and gentle ways. She loved her father, and as he grew older she was always by his side.

2. But her brothers and sisters were selfish and thought only of their own enjoyment. Then one terrible night, their splendid home caught fire and they were able to save only a few belongings before the house was destroyed. Beauty tried to comfort her father.



3. "We can stay at an inn until a new house is built," said Beauty. "Cheer up, father," Her father smiled. "You are right, Beauty," said he. "There is no cause for great sadness. I have plenty of money for the future." But even as he spoke, every ship he had on the sea was fighting through a wild storm.



4. The merchant took his family to a nearby inn and there they soon recovered from the loss of their old home and started to think about a new house. Then one morning a messenger arrived with truly dreadful news. Every ship owned by the merchant and his partners had been sunk with all their crews and cargoes.



5. "Alas," sighed Beauty's father, "I have lost everything. We are ruined. What shall we do?" His six sons and five elder daughters all shouted at their father for risking all his money in ships and trading. Only Beauty stood up in defence of their father.

6. "You should thank father for all the happy times we have had together in the past," she said. All that was left of the merchant's fortune was a small farm and he took his family to live there. "It is not much," he said, "but at least we are still all together."



7. "Still all together!" scoffed the sisters. "That won't put food and drink into our mouths, will it?" "No," said Beauty, "but we can plant and harvest the crops and grow food, not only enough to feed us but also to sell and make money." But her sisters sneered at her.

8. The six brothers, however, all agreed with Beauty and together with their father started work in the fields. It was Beauty who looked after the house. She cooked and washed for the men but her sisters gave her only a little help.



9. Beauty would sing and laugh while she scrubbed the floors of the old farm house. Her sisters would sit around, complaining and helping her only when they thought their father was watching.



10. You can understand how excited Beauty and her father were when one day came the news that one of the ships had weathered the storm and was home, crammed full of riches.

Next week the merchant visits a very mysterious castle.

Beauty and the Beast



1. "Now that my ship has returned home safe and sound, we will be rich again," said Beauty's father, as he prepared to set out for the port where the ship was anchored. "I shall buy you each a present while I am away. What would you like?"

2. All his sons and daughters, with the exception of Beauty, asked for costly gifts. Beauty stood beside her father as he mounted his horse. "We may fall on hard times again, father," she said. "Bring me back a white rose."



3. How right Beauty was to ask for a simple flower, for bad news awaited the merchant when he arrived at the port. The ship's captain told him that his partners, thinking him dead, had shared the rich cargo amongst themselves.



4. "There is nothing left for you," said the ship's captain. With a heavy heart the merchant remounted his horse and set off for his humble farm. It was a long journey and winter set in when he was half-way home.



5. For a whole day the merchant rode through the blinding snow. At last, in the later afternoon, the snow stopped falling. "I must find somewhere to stay the night," thought the merchant. Then suddenly he saw a splendid castle in the distance.



6. To his amazement, as he neared the castle, the snow disappeared from the ground and he found himself riding through warm sunshine. Flowers bloomed on every side and beautiful birds fluttered past him. "There is some strange mystery here," thought the merchant.



7. The merchant rode into a deserted courtyard and there ahead of him he saw a magnificent flight of steps leading up to the open doorway of the castle. Looking wonderingly around him, he dismounted from his horse and went up the steps.



8. There was no sight or sound of anyone. Silence reigned throughout the castle. "Is anyone there?" called out the merchant as he entered the Great Hall of the castle, where a huge fire was crackling. Again and again he called out but there was no reply.

Beauty and the Beast



1. Homeward bound after learning that he is still a poor man, Beauty's father came to a mysterious castle. Although a huge fire was burning in the fireplace of the Great Hall, nobody answered the merchant's call. Uneasily he looked about him.



2. At last he went back to the courtyard and led his horse to a stable. In the manger there was fresh hay. After seeing to his horse, the tired man returned to the Great Hall and sat down in front of the crackling fire. Then strange music lulled him to sleep.



3. When he opened his eyes he found that his cloak had been taken off him and hung with his hat on the back of his chair. Somebody had put more logs on the fire and, strangest of all, a table had been placed beside him and on the table was food and wine



4. "So the castle is not deserted after all," said the merchant, and again and again he called out "Hello there! Is anyone at home?" But silence answered his calls. Then, glancing at the meal beside him, he suddenly felt hungry and started to eat.



5. After he had finished eating, the merchant felt tired again and settling himself in the big chair he closed his eyes and slept heavily. When next he awakened, the early morning sun was shining. He went out to the stable and saddled his horse. He looked out into the courtyard but still no one was about.



6. The merchant shivered. There was much he did not like about this strange castle. He led his horse out of the stable and down a long avenue of beautiful trees. Although it was winter-time the sun was hot and lovely flowers were blossoming everywhere. "Stranger and stranger," thought the merchant.



7. It was as he passed a bush of heavy white roses that the merchant remembered that his favourite daughter, Beauty, had asked him to bring back a white rose for her. Smiling as he thought of her gentle charm and loving ways, the merchant picked one of the roses.



8. As he did so, he heard the sound of approaching footsteps. Turning, he saw a short flight of stone steps and there standing at the top of the steps was a fearsome figure. There stood the figure of a man but the head was of a lion! "Why do you steal my flowers?" he asked in grim tones.

Who is this strange Beast? What will happen next? Be sure to read more of this wonderful tale next week.



Beauty and the Beast



1. "Whoever dares to steal my roses shall die!" roared the Beast, and Beauty's father sank to his knees. "I thought the castle was deserted," he gasped. "Spare me! I only plucked a rose as a gift for my favourite daughter." The Beast glared angrily. "I will only spare your life on one condition," he said.



2. "Name it," replied the merchant. "I will agree to anything." "Very well," said the Beast. "You must promise to return here within one month and bring with you whoever meets you first when you arrive home. That person must stay with me here. Do I have your word?" "Yes," answered the merchant. "Then go!" ordered the Beast.



3. Thankfully the merchant rode away from the enchanted castle. Although inside the castle walls the trees were green and the flowers were blooming just like summer, outside the snow was still deep. "What an odd request," thought the merchant. "I must return with whoever greets me when I reach home. I wonder why?"



4. "Supposing it is one of my sons or daughters," the merchant went on. Then he thought, "Perhaps it will be the cat or perhaps the dog. Then all will be well." But, alas! As he rode slowly towards his farm who should be standing outside, waving her hand in loving greeting, but Beauty.



5. The merchant's heart was breaking as he gave Beauty the white rose he had plucked in the Beast's garden. She kissed him fondly and led him into the farmhouse, where a great fire of welcome was burning in the fireplace. All his sons and other daughters were waiting for his news.

6. How sad and disappointed they were when he told them that his journey had been in vain and that his partners, thinking him dead, had shared out the money his ship had brought home. While they fell to arguing and quarrelling amongst themselves, Beauty tried to comfort her father.



7. "It is not because we are still poor that makes me so sad," said Beauty's father. Then he took his daughter's hand in his and went on to tell her how he had spent the night in the Beast's enchanted castle and of the promise he had made.



8. "Dear father," was Beauty's reply, "the promise you have given must be kept. I will go back with you to the Beast and try to persuade him to let us return home safe again." So, a month later, Beauty and her father set out to ride back to the enchanted castle.

Next week : Beauty meets the Beast.

Beauty and the Beast



1. After a long ride Beauty and her father rode towards the Enchanted Castle where lived the strange Beast. Beauty gasped as they came in sight of the wondrous castle and her heart beat a little faster.



2. As they rode into the castle courtyard they heard beautiful music. But no living creature was to be seen. They dismounted from their horse and entered the Great Hall of the castle. A splendid meal was ready for them.

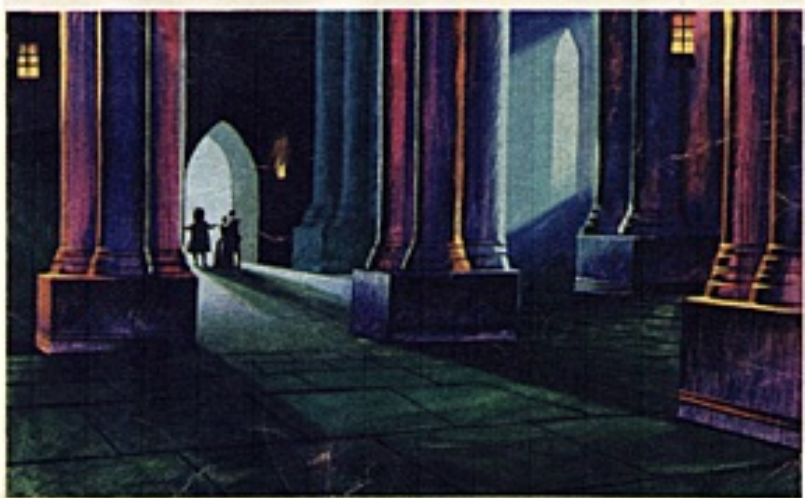


3. Weary after their long journey, they sat down before the log fire and began to eat. The merchant gazed sadly at his lovely daughter. What would become of her in this mysterious castle?

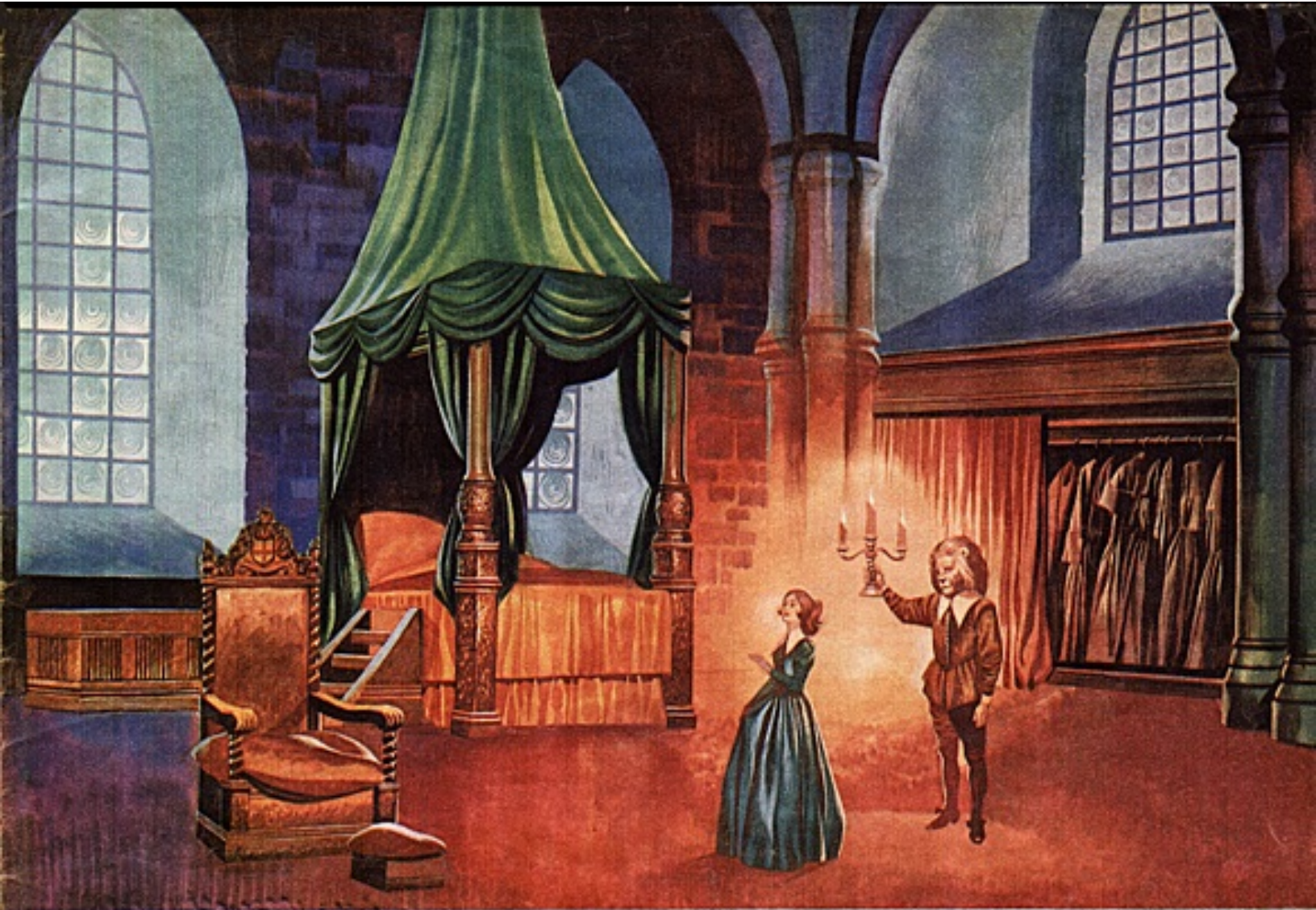
4. They had just finished their meal when there came the sound of heavy footsteps and the Beast entered the room and stood quietly, hat in hand. Beauty stared at him in fear.



5. Beauty and her father rose to their feet and faced the Beast who put out a gentle hand. "Well, merchant," he said, "is this the daughter for whom you picked the white rose?"



6. "Yes," replied the merchant. "It was she who met me first on my return home and she is here in fulfilment of my promise." "She will come to no harm," said the Beast.



7. Then the Beast went on: "There are rooms ready for you both. Tomorrow morning, you, merchant, must depart and leave your daughter with me. But, as I say, have no fears for her safety."

8. Then he led Beauty to an enormous room with a splendid four-poster bed. "Will you not let me go home with my father?" she asked. "I'm sorry—no," he said in a gruff but kind voice.



9. Beauty and her father slept soundly, even though they were to part the next morning. When they came down to the Great Hall, another meal was laid out as usual. After they had eaten, they went out into the castle courtyard and there, saddled and bridled was the merchant's horse.



10. Beauty kissed her father again and again and promised never to forget him. Then the merchant rode away. As he turned to wave farewell, he caught sight of the Beast watching them.

Next week: The Beast asks Beauty to marry him. What will be her answer?

Beauty and the Beast



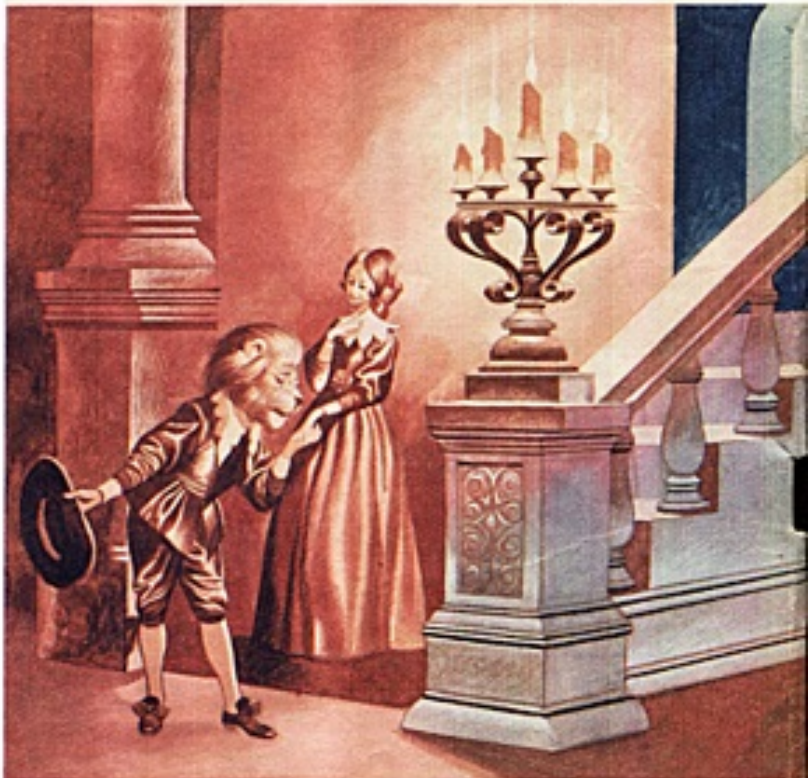
1. Beauty's father had returned home. Because of his promise to the mysterious Beast, he had to leave Beauty behind in the Beast's castle. After he had gone, Beauty amused herself by walking in the gardens. The Beast, unseen by Beauty, was shyly watching her.



2. Later that evening, Beauty went down to the Great Hall of the Castle and there she found that dinner for two had been laid out on the table. She was very hungry so she sat down and started to eat. A few moments later the Beast appeared and bowed politely.



3. Beauty was frightened and her hands trembled. "May I come in?" asked the Beast in a quiet voice. Beauty pulled herself together. She nodded silently, and the Beast came in and sat down at the table. "Do not be afraid of me," he said. "I will not harm you."



4. "You see, I live here by myself," went on the Beast, "and life is so lonely. I am hoping you will make my life happier." Then he spoke about many things. Beauty began to lose her fear and even allowed the Beast to kiss her hand when he said "Good-night."



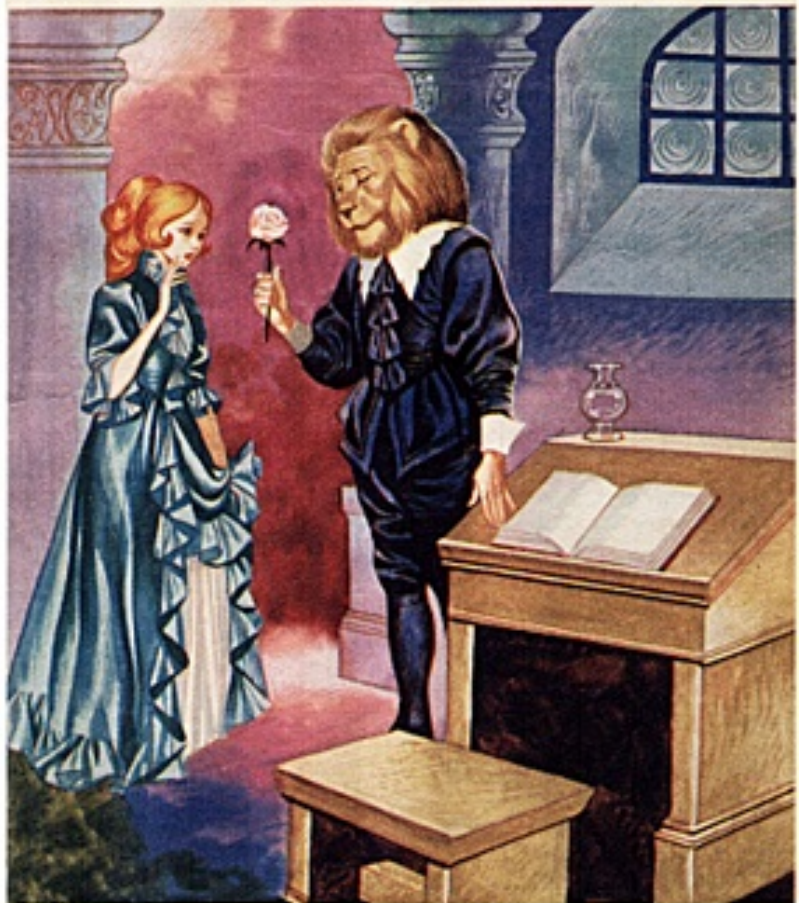
5. Time went by and Beauty found that the Beast was always thinking of her happiness and comfort. Often they would sit and talk and even laugh together. Then, one day the Beast asked Beauty to marry him. Beauty sighed and turned away her head sadly.



6. "No," said Beauty. "I cannot marry you but I will do all else I can to make you happy." The Beast shook his head and left her. That night Beauty was sitting at her dressing-table, thinking of her father. Suddenly she saw her father in the mirror, lying on a sick-bed, very ill.



7. Beauty realised that she was looking into a magic mirror, another of the wonders she was always coming across in the Enchanted Castle. Swiftly she sped to the Beast's study. She told him what she had seen and said that she would like to visit her father at once.



8. "Will you be sure to return here as soon as your father is well again?" asked the Beast gently. Beauty gave him her promise and he handed her a rose. "Take this rose and you will be carried at once to any place you choose," he said. "But remember your promise."

Beauty and the Beast



1. Beauty looked into a magic mirror and saw the reflection of her father ill in bed. She asked the Beast if she could go home. He agreed and gave her an enchanted rose that would carry her to wherever she wanted to go. "Take me to my father," she wished.



2. At once there came a flash and Beauty closed her eyes. It seemed to her as though she were rushing through air. At last she came to rest and found herself in her father's bedroom. Kneeling, she kissed his hand. "I've come to take care of you," she said.



3. "How did you get here?" asked her father. Beauty told him about the magic rose and her promise to return to the Beast when her father was well. A few weeks later, Beauty's father was well enough to go out for a short walk. Beauty's sisters watched her angrily.



4. The five sisters were all jealous of Beauty because she was now living in a grand castle and wore lovely clothes. "If we had her magic rose we could wish for rich clothes and jewels," said one and she hurried up to Beauty's bedroom.



5. There was the magic rose in a vase. Laughing with triumph, the sister took the rose and ran to her own bedroom where her sisters were eagerly waiting for her. "I've got it! I've got it!" she said. "Where is Beauty?"

6. One of the other sisters pointed out of the window. "There she is," she sneered, "looking after father as usual." "Never mind her," said another sister. "Let us wish on the magic rose for splendid jewels and new dresses like Beauty's."



7. "Why bother about jewels and clothes?" said the greediest of the five sisters. "Why not ask for a castle like the one where Beauty

lives with that horrible Beast?" "Yes, yes!" shouted the sisters. So the sister who had stolen the rose wished for a big castle.



8. At once there came a flash of lightning and an icy cold wind roared through the bedroom. Then there came a loud crash like

thunder and the sister who held the rose dropped it and trembled in her shoes. Her sisters cried aloud and huddled together in fright.

Next week: Beauty returns to the Beast's castle but a surprise awaits her.

Beauty and the *Beast*



1. The Beast had given Beauty a magic rose that would grant her every wish. She used the rose to take her to her father because he was ill. Then one day Beauty saw that the rose was missing from the vase where she kept it. What could have happened to it?



2. Little did Beauty know that one of her sisters had stolen it to use it for her own jealous ends. But the rose's only reply to the sister's wish was a frightening crash of thunder. At last Beauty found the rose where her sister had dropped it.



3. The rose's petals were drooping but as soon as Beauty picked it up, the rose came to full life again. Beauty smiled at the beautiful flower for it reminded her of the Beast, so sad and gentle. What was he doing now? What was the mystery surrounding him?



4. Beauty looked at the calendar and then she gasped in dismay. She had overstayed her four weeks with her father by a day. Swiftly she ran to his side. "I must keep my promise to the Beast and return at once," said she.



5. "But don't worry, dear father," went on Beauty. "I'll try to return soon." Then, raising the rose, she wished to return to the Beast's castle.



6. There came a swirling and a rushing of a great wind and Beauty closed her eyes as she felt herself lifted and borne through the air. Only a few moments passed by and then Beauty felt her feet touch the ground. Opening her eyes she saw that she was once again in the Great Hall of the Beast's splendid castle. She called aloud for the Beast but there was no reply.



7. From room to room ran Beauty. Although she swiftly searched everywhere in the castle there was no sign of the Beast. "Perhaps he is in the gardens," she thought, and ran out of the castle to see.



8. Beauty was now very worried and she realised that she had come to love the Beast. Why else was she so fearful for his safety? Then suddenly she saw him, lying on the grass, limp, silent and still.

Next week you will learn the Beast's secret.

Beauty and the *Beast*



1. When Beauty saw the Beast lying so still and quiet, her heart sank and tears ran sadly down her cheeks. "Oh, how I wish now that I had married him when he asked me," she wept. "If only he were alive and I could hear his voice again."



2. Beauty caught hold of the Beast's hand, and as she did so, he raised his great head and opened his soft brown eyes. "Ah, Beauty," he sighed, "you forgot your promise to return to me within a month and now I must die."



3. "No, no, dear Beast," replied Beauty. "I will not hear of it. Is there anything I can do to save you?" The Beast nodded. "Will you marry me?" he asked and Beauty smiled through her tears. "Of course," she said. "I will do *anything* to save you."



4. No sooner had she said this than there came a flash of blinding light and the great Beast's head disappeared. There in its place was the smiling face of a handsome young man. "I am a prince," he said. "A wicked magician put a spell on me."



5. The Prince then explained that under the spell his head was changed into that of a lion until a beautiful lady should agree to marry him. A kind fairy had, however, given him the magic rose to help him in his unhappiness.

6. Suddenly Beauty heard many happy voices, and turning, she saw that several ladies and gentlemen were standing on the steps of the castle. They had all been made invisible when the magic spell had been placed on the Prince.



7. The Prince then led Beauty into his castle and—surprise of surprises!—there waiting for her were her father and all her sisters and brothers. Magically they had been transported to the castle when the spell was broken.

8. The Prince arranged for his marriage to Beauty to take place at once. After the wedding a great feast was held. "To Beauty, my heart's love," said the Prince, raising his glass. And he and his Princess lived happily ever after. **(The End)**

